

The Member quoted figures regarding appeals filed from the various taluks during 1093, 1094 and 1095 in support of his contention.

Dewan.—The remarks of the High Court will be called for.

The Member next urged the early construction of a building for the Munsiff's Court and the First Class Magistrate's Court at Perumpavur and observed that travellers were put to great inconvenience on account of the satrom being utilised for the Munsiff's Court. There was already a sanctioned estimate for constructing a Munsiff's Court. It would be well if the First Class Magistrate's Court was also constructed along with the Munsiff's Court. The Member prayed that the work might be taken up and pushed through as early as possible.

His next request was in regard to the raising of the standard of the lower grade English school at Perumpavur. That was the only English school in the whole taluk. It was self-supporting and the building was put up by the people. The strength in Form III was 29 and students for Form IV and other higher forms had to go to either Parur or Alwaye.

Dewan.—Why cannot you run it as an aided institution? We shall hand it over to you and give you a grant.

Member.—People may not be found for undertaking it. They will be prepared to give sites and construct buildings.

Dewan.—There are three or four other schools where they want the standard to be raised. I think that we must proceed on some definite lines in these matters. The principle is that most of the secondary schools should be gradually handed over to private management and converted into aided schools. This is one of the subjects to be discussed at the proposed Educational Conference.

Member.—By that time the school year will commence.

Dewan.—Yours is not the only case. My own idea is that there is no use in having an English school up to Form III. If an English school is opened, it must be up to Form VI. But we must hand it over to the people for management. I am asking the Director to consult the local people.

Lastly, the Member spoke about the necessity of converting the Perumpavur Dispensary into a District Hospital.

Dewan.—The number of patients treated per day, according to your own statement, comes to only 50, and that is not sufficient to justify the conversion of the institution into a hospital. If necessary, two emergency wards will be opened, one for males and the other for females.

Member.—If a hospital cannot be opened, provision may be made for admitting inpatients.

Dewan.—Arrangements will be made for opening two emergency wards.

166. The enlargement of the rights and privileges of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly.

Mr. K. K. Thomas B. A., B. L. (Member, Kottayam Taluk) said that much of the desire for popular administration could be satisfied by the opening of District Councils and Village Panchayats already referred to in the Dewan's opening Address and that the proposed enlargement of the Legislative Council had also set at rest the major portion of the anxiety of the people in the matter of participation in the administration.

Coming to the proposed improvement of the Assembly itself, the Member said that the franchise should be on the broadest principle, making every graduate of the University eligible. The second grade pleaders who formed a very important portion of the public of Travancore and who were able to appreciate the advantages that were conferred on the people should also be declared eligible. Coming to the tax qualification, the Member would fix it at Rs. 5. Distinct provision should be made in the rules in respect of other classes of land which paid only one-eighth of the tax,

namely jenmom lands, and in regard to lands under long leases covering 10 acres and upwards. The present election rules were very vague and they gave infinite latitude to the revenue officers under whose supervision elections were held. In the rules proposed to be revised, the powers of the Tahsildar who wielded great influence over elections should be curtailed. The rules for the Municipal councils might suffice for the Assembly also. The Peishkars generally did not take up earnestly defects in elections brought to their notice and they oftentimes wished to avoid having a new election. A special officer should be empowered to go into the election question and election lists should be published from time to time. In the Member's opinion, it was desirable to appoint judicial officers in place of revenue officers, as officers responsible for elections. The Member suggested that judicial officers, preferably Munsiffs, and wherever they were absent Stationary Magistrates, might be authorised to conduct election enquiries as people had some faith in their judicious method of work. The Member also suggested that the lower limit of the income qualification should be between Rs. 250 and Rs. 300 a year.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

167. (a) Establishment of Taluk Boards throughout the State and entrusting all Maramat works not costing over Rs. 20,000 to them.

(b) Constitution of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly under Legislative Enactment.

Mr. Lona Ouseph (Member, Municipal Council, Parur) said that in respect of administrative rights and privileges, Travancoreans who were more advanced and educated than the people of British India had not at present even a tenth of the rights and privileges conferred on the latter by the British Indian Government. The Member was thankful for the assurance given in the opening Address in regard to certain reforms in administrative matters and suggested that the following reforms might be introduced :

(a) The majority of the members of the Legislative Council should be non-official representatives of the people; and the Council should be empowered to pass the Budget.

(b) Local Boards should be introduced in every taluk, the Members and President thereof being elected by the people. All maramat works not costing more than Rs. 20,000 should be entrusted to them.

(c) The constitution and working of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly should be based on a legislative enactment and the Assembly should be empowered to consider and pass resolutions on administrative questions. If the proposed Legislative Council did not alter such resolutions, Government should accept such resolutions and a Proclamation should be issued accordingly.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

168. Unsympathetic attitude of Government towards Ezhava problems.

Mr. T. K. Madhavan (Member, Nominated) said that his brother members had already made representations about the grievances of the Ezhava community and requested that their representations might be given fair consideration. He then submitted two memorials signed by the Ezhava members of the Assembly, one about the Ezhava Bill and the other about the admission of Ezhavas into temples.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

169. Needs of the Kunnattur Taluk.

Mr. R. Madhavan Onnithan (Member, Kunnattur Taluk) stated that the Adur lower grade English school was a flourishing institution with a strength of 207 pupils. The Government was realising a net income of at least Rs. 500 per year from the school. The strength of the school was steadily increasing and it was likely that the neighbouring schools of Tumpaman and Pattanamtitta would serve as feeder institutions for a High School at Adur. He, therefore, requested that Form IV